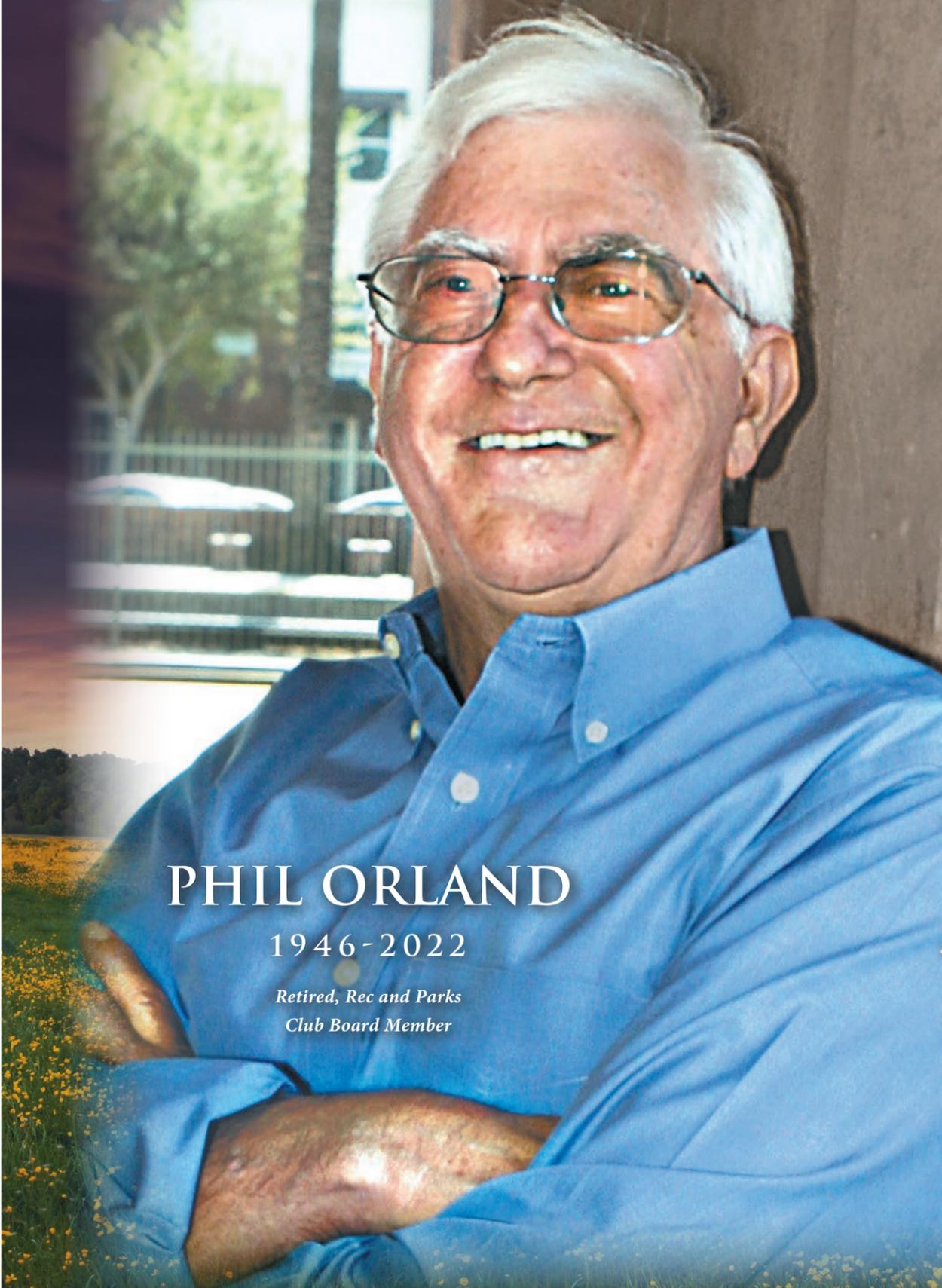


Alive!



PHIL ORLAND

1946-2022

*Retired, Rec and Parks
Club Board Member*



JIM THOMPSON

1950-2022

*Staff Member, Employees Club of California
Club Back Office Coordinator*



AMERICO GARZA

1924-2022

*Retired, Public Works/Engineering
Retired Board Member, RLACEI
Co-Founder, Los Angeles City Employees
Chicano Association
Co-Founder, Society of Hispanic
Professional Engineers*

IN MEMORIAM

*Club says goodbye to three who served
Club Members, the City, and the country.*

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Honoring Their Service

Alive! has never published a cover story like the one this month. That is because we have never lost three people so important to Club Members in the matter of just a few months.

Phil, Americo and Jim: I knew each of them on a first-name basis. They contributed mightily to the lives of Club Members, the City, the state, and our country, as you will read in this month's feature. Their work affected our world, both very locally here in LA and in the whole United States: **Phil Orland** retired from a long career at Rec and Parks and served on the Club Board and the board of our friends at the RLACE! **Americo Garza** helped blaze trails by organizing Hispanics for better career representation

throughout the country ... and **Jim Thompson**, a Club employee, made our association function beautifully from the ground up so we can serve our Members in the best way we know how.

These three remarkable people had at least one thing in common: their commitment to others. Their work mattered. Their dedication mattered. The sadness that comes from their passing gives the Club a chance to celebrate them, honor them and recognize their significant contributions. We pledge our deep gratitude for their nearly hundred years of combined service; that is one of the most important things the Club can do for its Members.

I send my deepest condolences to **Penny Orland**, to our own **Leigh Thompson**, and to the family of Americo Garza. Your loved ones are our heroes.

So Long to a Servant: I wish **Brian Sibert**, Refuse Collection Truck Operator, Public Works/Sanitation, a beautiful retirement after 34 years of City service. We featured Brian on our cover sev-

ROBERT'S BLOG

by Robert Larios, CEO, The Club



eral years ago for the program he managed – collecting gifts at the West Valley Yard for underprivileged children at Christmas. I mean, by the thousands and thousands, over the years. Brian is an incredible servant to the world, and we wish him the best.

Plaques With Gratitude: Speaking of honoring Club Members, I want readers to know about the expansion of what we call "Larios in the City." Our program to award retirement plaques to Club Members of at least five years of consecutive Membership is growing by popular demand! We decided to put a program in place to better manage this expanding outreach. Let us recognize your dedicated service and thank you for all you've done. See the ad on page 20, and sign up.

Lock In Those Rates: Please register for one of the Club's Long-Term Care seminars, hosted by our **Noelle Kauffman** (see the ad on page 4). Lock in those rates before the end of the year!

¡Gracias por leer!



Phil Orland

Americo Garza

Jim Thompson



Sherman W. Johnson

CORRECTION: In last month's blog entry from Club CEO Robert Larios, he included a tribute to a former teacher. In the introduction to that remembrance, we misstated the name of the teacher. He was Sherman W. Johnson. *Alive!* apologizes to Mr. Johnson's family and former students, and to Robert Larios.



At a recent Mobile Team site visit.

Set-up a Mobile Team Visit Today!

Supervisors: Bring the Club to your worksite! The Club Store Mobile Team will bring benefits experts and Club legendary apparel for purchase at low prices (hats custom-made on site). Your employees will be grateful!



For your continued safety:

- The Mobile Team brings and wears safety gear.
- The Mobile Team is accepting only outdoor set-ups for now.

See you soon!

Mobile Team Schedule*

The Mobile Team sets up in the Harbor area the first Wednesday of every month.

Harbor Boys and Girls Club
 100 W. Fifth St., San Pedro
 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

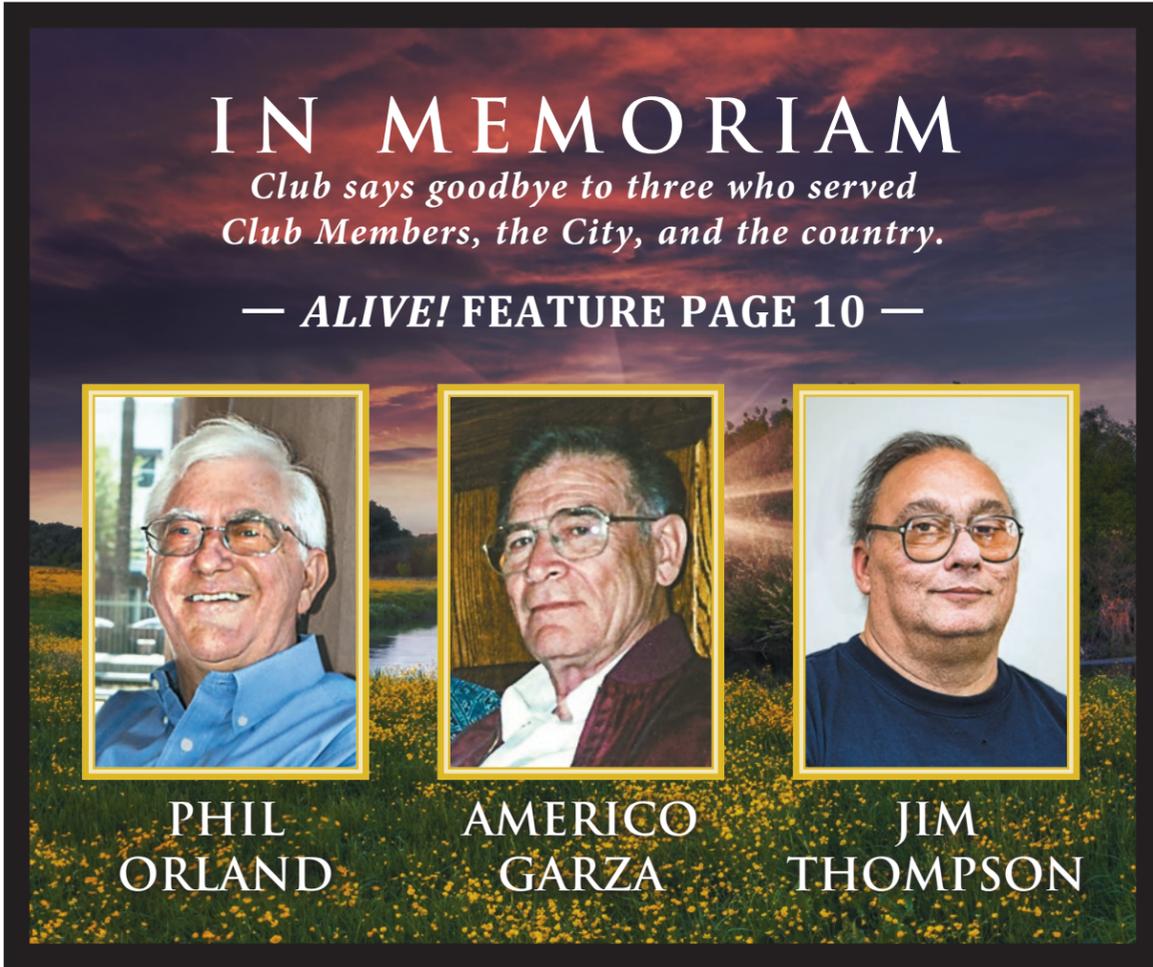
Wednesday, Oct. 5
Wednesday, Nov. 2
Wednesday, Dec. 7

Follow Club social media for other days, times and locations as they are scheduled.

Schedule A Site Visit

To schedule a site visit, contact **Lupe Lira, Club Store Manager:** (213) 819-0350, or mobile@employeesclub.com

*Mobile Team site visit dates are subject to change due to the pandemic. Make sure to check with your supervisor to confirm dates and times, up to and including on the scheduled day itself.



COVER STORY:

Three to Remember 10-12

The Club mourns the loss of three who meant much to the City, the country and the Club.

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Eric Robles, General Services, Club Member (left) with Club CEO Robert Larios.

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THIS MONTH ONLINE!
alive.employeesclub.com

John's Picture Perfect

All the winners from this month's contest on the theme "family."



Library Top 10

See what your fellow Angelenos are reading, watching and grooving to.



Cooking with the Club

Chef Larios is a master at preparing gingery beef ramen stir-fry, adding zucchini and scallions to pump up the flavor!



WIN!
4 FREE TICKETS TO THE SAN DIEGO ZOO

Coloring

with The Club

for Kids

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DOWNLOAD ART: alive.employeesclub.com/kidscoloringcontest



The Club Is Here to Help

Club staff is dedicated to helping our members receive the maximum benefit from their membership. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions about your Club, our counselors are ready to help.

Contact the Club

if you have an event you want covered in *Alive!* or if you have questions about insurance.

help@employeesclub.com
(800) 464-0452

Physical Club Store Hours:

Monday–Friday • 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

NOTE: The Club Store (and offices) will be closed Monday, Sept. 5 in observance of Labor Day. (The online Club Store is open 24/7).

NOTE: The walk-in Club Store is closed every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. for staff meetings.



Oct. 2022 • Volume 21 - No. 10

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In addition, the Club strives to publish only those elements that are produced by the Club itself, are in the public domain, or whose rights have been negotiated.

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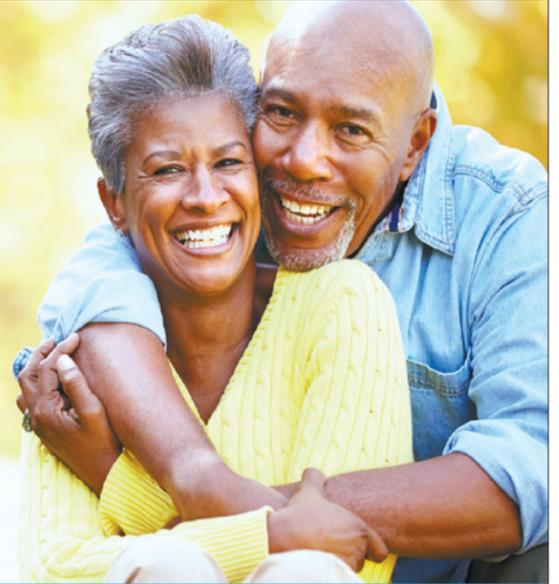
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Many of us will need long-term care at some point in our lives. As we grow older, the cost of help can be steep and uncertain. Planning ahead for unforeseen needs will help save you time and money, later.

The Club is hosting FREE private seminars to provide you with valuable resources that will enable you to make the right decisions when it comes to Long Term Care Insurance. We'll explain all the benefits of Long Term Care Insurance and help you navigate the application process for a better future under your control.

Here's what you'll learn:

- What is Long-Term Care insurance, and why you need it.
- What qualifies as Long-Term Care.
- How much will Long-Term Care insurance cost for you.
- How to implement Long-Term Care insurance into your retirement strategy.

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Space is very limited to ensure we can provide each attendee the best experience and to allow time for one-on-one questions and answers afterward.

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NOV 9th (Wednesday) in Room 2

NOV 14th (Monday) in Room 2

DEC 8th (Thursday) in Room 7

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aherrero@employeesclub.com

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celebrates you when you start your City career, when you retire, and all along the way.



Thursday, Fridays, and Sunday Nights
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More Details:



Gate Price
\$79⁹⁹

CLUB MEMBER
\$40⁵⁰

PUBLIC WORKS



The LA Board of Public Works hosted a special ceremony to say goodbye and thank you to Greg Spotts, who has left the City to run Seattle's transportation department.

Goodbye, Greg

CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICER LEAVES TO TAKE ON SEATTLE TRANSPORTATION.

Greg Spotts, formerly the City's Chief Sustainability Officer and Executive Officer of Public Works/Street Services, has headed to Seattle.

On July 27, Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell appointed Spotts as the next director of the Seattle Dept. of Transportation.

"We wish Greg well," said Club CEO Robert Larios. "City employees are of great value and are in demand all over the country!"



Greg Spotts

Spotts currently was the Executive Officer and Chief Sustainability Officer at Public Works/Street Services, which oversees 1,500 staff positions, an annual budget of \$230 million, and a capital program of more than \$350 million. He led the delivery of more than \$600 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects as well as efforts to make Los Angeles more walkable, bikeable, transit-friendly and sustainable.

Spotts began his tenure in Seattle in early September as acting director until Council confirmation.

Congratulations, Greg, on your new appointment. The City will miss you! ●



Greg Spotts third from left, from *Alive!* June 2022

AGING

Jaime Is Aging's GM

JAIME PACHECO-OROZCO IS NEW GM OF DEPT. OF AGING.

On July 5, Jaime H. Pacheco-Orozco became General Manager of the Dept. of Aging. He was appointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti and replaced Interim General Manager Mariella Freire-Reyes.



Jaime H. Pacheco-Orozco

Jaime H. Pacheco-Orozco has served the City for more than 20 years, the last three as Assistant Executive Director of the Dept. of Disability. Previously, he served as the Division Chief of the City's Workforce Development System through which he developed tools and programs to better serve older working adults, adults and youths with disabilities, and English language learners, among other demographics.

As General Manager of Aging, Pacheco-Orozco oversees all programs and services managed by the department, including senior meals and older adult-working programs.

"I am excited and honored by this opportunity," Jaime said. "I believe every Angeleno whether old, young, or with a disability, deserves equal opportunity to grow professionally and personally. Through this role, I will put City resources to work to ensure no one, despite of age, gets left behind. I look forward to continuing to work for this great City of Angels."

Congratulations, Jaime! ●

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LACERS

LOS ANGELES CITY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

FOR RETIRED MEMBERS:

Open Enrollment For 2023 to Start

This year's LACERS Health Benefits Open Enrollment period will be held Oct. 17 – Nov. 17, with Open Enrollment packets being mailed in early October. This will be Retirees' opportunity to enroll in a plan, change your plan, or add dependents with changes taking effect Jan. 1, 2023.

For Members *under* age 65, your packet will include a Health Plan Statement, Open Enrollment Overview, and instructions on how to access the 2023 Health Benefits Guide online. If you need a hard copy after you receive your packet you can email LACERS. health@lacers.org (with the subject line "Requesting 2023 Open Enrollment Health Benefits Guide") to have one mailed to you. Include your name and mailing address in the body, and one will be mailed to you. If you do not have email access, you may call LACERS at (800) 779-8328.

For Members aged 65 and older, your packet will include a Health Plan Statement, Open Enrollment Overview, and 2023 Health Benefits Guide



ATTEND A VIRTUAL OPEN ENROLLMENT MEETING

Open Enrollment meetings will be held virtually this year. Take this opportunity to meet with LACERS Health staff and learn about updates for the 2023 plan year. LACERS Health plan carriers, including Anthem Blue Cross, Kaiser Permanente, SCAN Health Plan, UnitedHealthcare, Delta Dental and Anthem Blue View Vision, will present their plans and provide a question-and-answer session. Meetings will be held online using Zoom video conference, or you may dial in by phone to hear the online Zoom presentation. You can register for these meetings via your MyLACERS online portal account at <https://mylacers.lacers.org> or by calling LACERS at (800) 779-8326.

All virtual meetings begin at 10 a.m. on the following dates:

- Kaiser Permanente: Oct. 18
- Anthem Blue Cross and Blue View Vision: Oct. 20
- SCAN Health Plan, UnitedHealthcare, and Delta Dental: Oct. 25

FOR RETIRED MEMBERS:

LACERS Well Events Coming This Month

Register for these virtual events below through your MyLACERS account at <https://mylacers.org> or by calling LACERS. If you need assistance, email LacersWell@lacers.org Space is limited for each event so be sure to sign up early. To view additional dates and information, visit: lacers.org/lacers-well-events

VIRTUAL

Mom's Computer Technology Class:

Mom's Computer will host monthly technology classes throughout 2022; the next one is set for 3 p.m. Wed., Oct. 12. These classes help members navigate the changing technology landscape and offer tips on using computer, smart phones/tablets, Internet, and more.

Fitness Made Simple: Exercise Class:

Why just talk or dream about exercise when we can "Make Fitness Simple?" Join Coach Sean Foy at 9:30 a.m. Wed., Oct. 19 as he helps you train in the comfort and convenience of your own home to realize your personal health and fitness goals!

Brain Health Class: Alzheimer's Los Angeles (ALZLA) is hosting monthly brain health classes, the next being held at 2 p.m. Wed., Aug. 24. The mission is to improve the lives of local families affected by Alzheimer's and dementia by increasing awareness, delivering effective programs and services, providing compassionate support, and advocating for quality care and a cure. Both active and retired members are welcome at this event.

IN PERSON

Beach Walk With Frankie:

Join Champion Frankie Gallagher for a Playa del Rey beach walk every Friday morning.

Missed Past LACERS Well Events?

LACERS offers several event recordings on various topics: finances, emotional wellness, fitness, and more! Visit the LACERS YouTube channel at youtube.com/lacersyoutube and hit the subscribe button to receive alerts of newly posted videos. Also, enjoy exclusive content and get connected with LACERS Members on the LACERS Well Facebook Group. Log on to your account at Facebook.com and search for the LACERS Well group to join.

READY FOR RETIREMENT



Resources for Club Retirees or Those About to Retire



LONG-TERM CARE MAKES SO MUCH SENSE



Noelle Kauffman
Director of Sales
CA LICENSE NO: 0H45598

This month, we continue our discussion of the importance of having **long-term care insurance**.

2020 states that the median costs for these services range from \$53,768 to \$105,850 per year.

Long-term care insurance is designed to protect your retirement savings and assets by paying a monthly benefit for some of the expenses you may incur if you need supervision or assistance with basic activities of daily living (ADLs), such as bathing, eating, continence, dressing, toileting, ambulating and transferring – situations that can follow an accident or illness such as a stroke, because of older age and frailty, or because you need supervision due to a cognitive disorder like Alzheimer's disease.

Make an appointment with our Retirement Specialists. Lock in your rate today!

JOIN THE CLUB

Club Membership for Retirees costs only \$4 a month and can be deducted from your pension. As a Retiree, you are entitled to group rated insurance benefits including life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment, pre-funeral planning, long-term care, and our popular legal plan by MetLife

Congratulations on your retirement. Enjoy it!

LET'S TALK ABOUT LONG TERM CARE (LTC) INSURANCE

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, nearly 70 percent of Retirees will need some type of long-term care. A survey conducted by Genworth in

HERE'S WHY YOU NEED THE CLUB'S LONG-TERM INSURANCE

Long-term care insurance is designed to pay benefits for some of the expenses you may incur if you need supervision or assistance with basic activities of daily living (ADLs), including bathing, eating, continence, dressing, toileting, ambulating and transferring.

You may need this kind of help following an accident or illness such as a stroke – because of older age and frailty, or because you need supervision due to a cognitive disorder like Alzheimer's disease.

- Your premiums are conveniently deducted through your pension
- Affordable Club Member-only group rates
- Group rates are locked in at the age you apply
- Coverage is available to you, your spouse/domestic partner, parents, and grandparents
- Available payout benefits range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per month
- Your plan pays a monthly benefit directly to you, as opposed to most other programs that pay out on a reimbursement schedule
- Choose from four plans: 1) Long-Term Care facility; 2) professional home care; 3) total home care; and 4) simple inflation protection
- Available terms: four-year nursing facility/eight years in home. Also 10-year nursing facility/20 year in home* (Home care benefit pays out at 50 percent)

***TIP!**
Apply before the end of the year to lock in your premium at your current age. ★

Schedule an appointment today with a Club Retirement Counselor, and be ready for your best retirement.

IMPORTANT: The best time to buy long term care insurance is **before you need it.**

Retired or retiring Soon?

Call for a FREE insurance benefits consultation with a Member Services Counselor:



Cheryl Martin

(800) 464 -0452,

EXT. 136

Work cell: (213) 819-0794

23 years of insurance experience
CA LICENSE NO: 0C12823



Tiffany Sy

(800) 464-0452,

EXT. 202

Work cell: (213) 440-8270

20 years of insurance experience
CA LICENSE NO: 0D75348

2022 Events

Oct. 1 **Annual Fall Meeting**

(LADWP Association)
Canceled/pandemic

Dec. 17 **Annual Holiday**

11 a.m. **Celebration** (LARFPA)
Sheraton Universal Hotel
333 Universal Hollywood Dr.
Universal City

RESERVATION INFORMATION:

LADWP Retiree Association:

vincedolores@gmail.com

LARFPA: events@larfpa.org

Contact Information

Employees Club of California

Club contact:
help@employeesclub.com

Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS) (City Dept.)

(800) 779-8328
lacers.services@lacers.org

LADWP Retirees Association

Dolores Foley, *President*
(949) 388-1206
vincedolores@gmail.com

Fire and Police Pensions (City Dept.)

(844) 885-2377
pensions@lafpp.com

LA Retired Fire and Police Association (LARFPA)

(888) 288-5073
membership@larfpa.org

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)

See page 16

LACEA Insurance Services, Inc. (Employees Club of California) is a licensed insurance agency offering insurance benefits to qualified Club members. The Club's CA DOI Lic. is #0B98000.

FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS

ARE YOU READY FOR RETIREMENT?

HERE ARE SOME CURRENT PROGRAMS TO HELP WITH YOUR PLANNING:

Webinars

Learn about your retirement options and benefits at an upcoming Planning for Retirement webinar, hosted by the LACERS Member Engagement team. Register via your MyLACERS account. Upcoming dates include:

- Sat., Oct. 1**
- Tues., Oct. 11** (4:30 p.m.)
- Thurs., Oct. 13** (Tier 3)
- Thurs., Oct. 20**
- Thurs., Oct. 29**

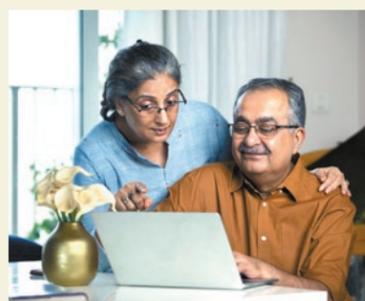
All webinars begin at 9 a.m.

Applying for Retirement Online

Members are encouraged to submit their retirement application 60 days before their retirement date when using LACERS' new Retirement Application Portal (RAP). The RAP is a great asset to LACERS Members that helps to streamline the retirement process. While

the filing period is within 30 to 60 days of your retirement date, starting your application early and submitting it on the first day you can at the 60-day-prior mark, will allow for a couple of benefits. These include having ample time to discover any complications and address them without having to move your retirement date, as well as ensuring LACERS staff has time to meet your retirement date request.

For example, if your desired retirement date is Dec. 17, 2022, you would aim to submit your retirement application in the portal on Oct. 18, 2022. For more information, please visit lacers.org/applying-retirement.





Tess Chen

Tess Chen Is Honored

ENGINEER NOTED AS EXEMPLARY PERFORMER

Last year, Transportation's Tess Chen, Transportation Engineering Associate, was recognized as an outstanding performer for her work on the implementation of Complete Streets. She was recognized for her extraordinary efforts and accomplishments.

Tess joined LADOT initially as a volunteer in 2019 and has since proven her ability to not only learn quickly but to train her coworkers as well. Tess has produced project delivery tools for the Complete Streets Implementation Division that have been adopted department-wide as a succession tool to ensure projects will continue to be delivered despite ongoing retirements. Tess has also developed tools to streamline project budgeting exercises to ensure budgets and appropriations are closely monitored.

Tess is just one of several employees deemed Outstanding Performers last year during the pandemic (*Alive!* is still catching up!).

Congratulations, Tess, on your outstanding performance for the City. ●



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Savings that will make you scream with joy!

CLUB MEMBER ONLY DISCOUNTS

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CLUB MEMBER \$69⁰⁰
Any Day

GATE PRICE \$83⁵⁰
Adult Ticket

CLUB MEMBER \$70⁵⁰
Adult

GATE PRICE \$79⁹⁹
General Admission

CLUB MEMBER \$52⁵⁰

GATE PRICE \$30⁰⁰
K1 Speed eVoucher

CLUB MEMBER \$17⁰⁰

GATE PRICE \$67⁰⁰
Adult Ticket

CLUB MEMBER \$53³⁰
ADULT



THE CLUB DOES NOT CHARGE ANY PROCESSING OR HANDLING FEES!



EXPLORE MORE SAVINGS ONLINE

www.EmployeesClub.com

Be a Part of a Club Holiday Tradition

It's Party Pix Time

*Is your dept. celebrating the holidays in person again?
Let us publish your photos!*

The past three years, departments have had to improvise when it comes to planning the official holiday gatherings ... or just hold off and wait. The Club Holiday tradition continues – have photos from your department's holiday party printed in *Alive!*, in our special holiday section, online and in print. It's an *Alive!* tradition!

Here's how to have your holiday photos published:

1. If you're having your party in person, take your own photos and submit to the Club at the address below.
2. Or, invite the Club to attend your holiday party. We'll assign your Club Counselor or other Club employee, and will join your party just to take some photos. Send us your details. We'll do our best to get to as many parties as we can, but we can't guarantee it.
3. If your department party is going virtual again, send us an email and we'll try to schedule it from there.

To upload your digital holiday party photos, or ask that we attend, go to:
www.alive.employeesclub.com/holidayparty

LAPD

Kudos to Pete Casey

CAPT. II PETE CASEY, MEDAL OF VALOR RECIPIENT AND TV STAR, RETIRES AFTER 33 YEARS OF CITY SERVICE.



Capt. II Pete Casey

On Sept. 9, a reception was held for Capt. II Pete Casey, Training Division, who retired after 33 years of City service.

"Saying goodbye is never easy," he wrote. "Sept. 9 marks the end of 33 years serving the City of Angels. A boy from Delaware, growing up on Adam-12, dreamed to become an LAPD Officer. I have lived my dreams beyond my own imaginations and expectations. Honored to have served the residents of LA."

In 1989 Pete joined the LAPD as a Line Reserve Officer at Rampart Division while still working for retailer Target. In 1991, Pete lateraled onto the Department and was assigned to Newton Division. While working Newton Division, he received numerous awards and commendations, including the Department's highest honor, the "Medal of Valor." One of Pete's proudest moments was when he performed CPR to a lifeless child who was not breathing and as a result saved her life.

In 1993, Pete was assigned to Pacific Division. During his assignment, Pete was featured on the Discovery Channel's *Inside the Real LAPD*. While at Pacific Division Pete established a strong neighborhood and business advisory council, implemented Mode Neighborhood program sponsored by the City Attorney's Office, and obtained a gang injunction on the Culver City Boys gang. In 1999, Pete was promot-

ed to Sergeant and assigned to Southwest Division as a Field Supervisor. In 2000, Pete was promoted to Sergeant II and assigned to Internal Affairs South Section.

In 2001 Pete transferred to 77th Division as an Assistant Watch Commander. In 2006 Pete was asked by the then Deputy Chief Charlie Beck to establish Operations South Bureau's Criminal Gang Homicide Group as then Commander Pat Gannon's aide. In 2007 Pete completed his bachelor's degree in criminal justice and was promoted to Lieutenant.

From 2007 to 2012, Pete continued his career as Watch Commander in 77th Division, Olympic Division and Central Division. In 2013, Pete was selected by the Director of Office of Operations to be the Officer in Charge of Central Area's Safer Cities. In 2014, Pete was promoted to Lieutenant II and assigned to Communications Division. In 2015, Pete was selected to the position of Assistant Commanding Officer, Communications Division. Pete has been credited for his interpersonal and management abilities in improving the morale and atmosphere of the largest command within the City.



At Pete's retirement reception.



Pete was promoted to Captain in January 2016. Prior to joining Mission's leadership team, Pete was the Van Nuys Patrol Commanding Officer.

Congratulations on your retirement, Pete! ●

LAFD

Drake to Emer. Ops

Starting Aug. 28, LAFD Assistant Chief John Drake is the new Chief Deputy of Emergency Operations, LAFD, it was announced by Chief Kristin Crowley.

Assistant Chief Drake has more than 36 years of service with the LAFD and has been instrumental in influencing organizational direction and services.

Congratulations, Assistant Chief Drake! ●



Assistant Chief John Drake



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LADOT



Seleta Reynolds (center) was honored Sept. 2 by the LA City Council.

Seleta to Metro

GM SELETA REYNOLDS LEAVES CITY, MOVES TO METRO.

In August, Transportation GM Seleta Reynolds left her role leading the City's transportation dept. after 8 years to take on digital service and innovation at Metro.

She is Metro's new Chief Innovation Officer and head of the Dept. of Strategic Innovation. She began her tenure at Metro Aug. 30.

The LA City Council on Sept. 2 recognized Seleta for her eight years heading the City's transportation dept.

Metro's statement listed her accomplishments:

"Among her accomplishments are the nation's largest electric vehicle car-share program and the nation's largest universal basic mobility plan pilot. Previously, she served at the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, leading the Livable Streets Unit."

The Club wishes Seleta the best in her new position. ●



The Club's online photo contest, organized by Association CEO, John Hawkins

John's Picture Perfect Contest

Submit your best photos, and be in the running for a prize.

The Club's online photo contest, organized by Association CEO John Hawkins, has a monthly theme. For November, we're looking for images that contain pies. Send us something awesome!

This month's contest theme: **Pies**
DEADLINE: Oct. 17

Submit your photos online here:
alive.employeesclub.com/pictureperfect
Club Members only. Good luck!



LAFD



Battalion Chief Karen Richter among those who wished her well on her retirement.

Goodbye, Karen

BATTALION CHIEF CALLS IT A CAREER.

On Sept. 3, LAFD Chief Kristin Crowley attended an impromptu goodbye gathering for Battalion Chief Karen Richter, who retired after more than 33 years of City service.

Congratulations, Karen, and thank you for your service. ●

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These insurance products are brought to you by the Club's Partner, United Agencies, Inc. CA Lic. # 0252636 United Agencies represents Mercury Insurance Group, as well as Chubb Insurance, Hartford, Fireman's Fund, Progressive, Civil Service Employees Insurance, Allied, Safeco, Travelers, Unigard and Encompass.



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PRESENTED BY  Bio-One

50 Mile, 9 Person River Mountains Loop Trail

OCTOBER 15, 2022





For information or questions: Rick Massa or Tony Adler

Email: FirstRespondersRelay@cpaf.org

Contact: 858.571.9919

Register: <https://cpaf.org/first-responders-relay/>



SCAN ME

ALIVE! FEATURE

GOODBYE TO THREE

The Club says Rest in Peace to three who affected the Club, the City and the country.

They are lives worth celebrating, and now lives worth mourning.

In the past six weeks or so, the Club family has lost three whom you might have heard of, might have worked with, or might have been friends with. But they all made a difference in the City and the Club experience.

They are **Phil Orland**, Retired, Rec and Parks, and Club Board Member; **Americo Garza**, Retired, Public Works/Engineering, former RLACEI board member, national Hispanic engineer pioneer, and Club Member; and **Jim Thompson**, Club Staff member and master of the Club's back office.

Over the years, *Alive!* has mourned Board members, Councilmembers and others who have passed away, but has never featured two, much less three, people who have died who touched many in the Club community. We do that this month, as the circumstances warrant.

The Club extends its sympathies to the family, friends and co-workers of Phil, Americo and Jim. You have helped build a better Club, Los Angeles, California and America.

PUBLIC WORKS

REMEMBERING AMERICO GARZA 1924-2022



Americo Garza

Retired, Public Works/Engineering

Retired Board Member, RLACEI

Co-Founder, Los Angeles City Employees Chicano Association

Co-Founder, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers

Americo Garza, a Retired Civil Engineer and local and national pioneer in Hispanic representation in engineering careers, died July 15. He was 97 and served the City for X years.

Americo was an Engineer with the City's Bureau of Engineering when he and other Hispanics, dissatisfied with the difficulties they were experiencing in advancing their careers, formed the Los Angeles City Employees Chicano Association (LACECA). Americo would be President of the organization a decade later. LACECA is dedicated to advancing the employment, educational, economical and social welfare of its members and the Latino community through advocating for equal employment opportunity, promotion professional development and networking.

Two years later, in 1973, Rodrigo Garcia, a fellow Hispanic engineer working for the City, gathered other Hispanic Engineers, including Americo, in his garage in East LA to talk about their career frustrations and how to reach out beyond the City. The group included LACECA members George Esquer, Gill Herrera and Alex Vidaurazaga. From that meeting they created the Society for Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). Americo was the group's first First Vice President. On the first board were Garcia, Esquer, Andres SantaMaria, and Vidaurazaga. Today, the SHPE, a leading national organization for Hispanics in the STEM disciplines, has more than 10,000 members and more than 230 chapters, including at many universities.

After retirement, Americo served on the board of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI) for many years.

Americo's wife, Ella, preceded him in death. His grandson, Lt. Commander Patrick Nanson, serves in the US Navy.

A memorial service is scheduled for Oct. 21 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Downey.

The Club extends its condolences to Americo's family, friends and former co-workers. ■

TRIBUTES

Americo Garza was one of the Los Angeles City Employees Chicano Association's (LACECA) founding members. He and three other LA City Engineers got together in 1971 to figure out how they could help each other to be considered for job promotions. They were constantly being bypassed despite having a higher final score on City Eligible Lists. That's the reason LACECA was created on March 10, 1971.

After retirement, he regularly participated in LACECA planning events and recruitment, and providing us his wealth of LACECA knowledge when LACECA spearheaded representing members in getting them equitable pay for bilingual work, grievances and equal representation. I dearly remember Americo and his lovely wife, Ella, attending many of the events LACECA organized when I first started working for the City in 1988.

LACECA is the first minority organization recognized by the City Council Employee Relations Resolution, which motivated other minority City organization to create their own employees associations – the LA Asian-American Employees Association, the Black Employees Association, the LA Filipino Association (LAFACE), the LA Gay and Lesbian Employees Association and the LA Veterans Employees Association (LAVVA), to name a few.

Americo's vision and dedication have enabled many of us to be heard and recognized for our efforts.

— **Leonor Garcia**,
Management Analyst,
Corporate Strategy and Communications,
LADWP
Past Vice President, LACECA
Club Member

Tributes continue on page 21.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MOVING TRIBUTES TO AMERICO:

Leonor Garcia
Management Analyst,
Corporate Strategy and Communications,
LADWP
Past Vice President, LACECA
Club Member

Robert Larios
President and CEO
Employees Club of California

Mike Perez
Retired, General Manager
Los Angeles Fire and Police Pensions

Arlene Herrero
Vice President of Business Development
The Club

Trinh Pham
Sr. Accountant
The Club



Americo Garza, around the time when he started his City career.



Americo Garza in his retirement.

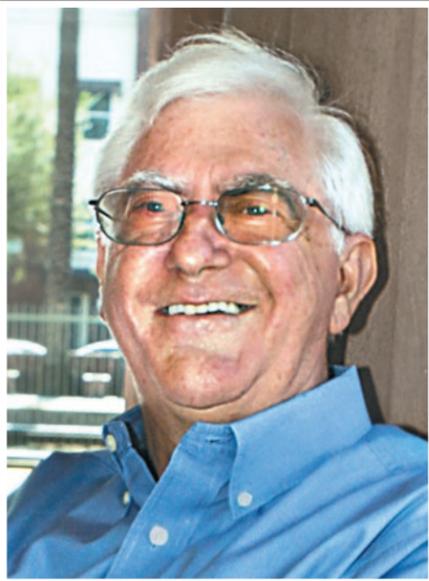


Ella and Americo Garza.

Photos courtesy the Garza family

REC AND PARKS

REMEMBERING PHIL ORLAND 1946-2022



Phil Orland

*Retired, Rec and Parks
Club Board Member*

Phil Orland – active Club Board Member; Retired, Rec and Parks; US Navy veteran; and former RLACEI Board Member – died Aug. 16. He was 75 and had served the City for 35 years.

Phil managed recreation programs for all ages as Principal Recreation Supervisor for Rec and Parks. He worked for the City from 1975 to 2010.

“Phil began working for the City of Los Angeles in Rec and Parks after serving in Vietnam,” his widow, Penny, wrote in a remembrance. “He was a very faithful worker and a great boss. He helped many young workers early in their careers. He could never understand how bosses could be intimidated by smart subordinates. He felt capable workers made him look better and always gave them credit.”

In retirement, he joined the Club Board in 2018 and was an active Board Member at the time of his death.

Phil stayed active in retirement. He was a member of the board of directors for the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI), coordinating educational seminars for Retirees on the Affordable Care Act and financial planning. He also played an important role in promoting LACERS’ wellness program, designed to help Retired members enjoy a healthy and active retirement.

He was a board member for the professional organization Men in Leisure Services, raising money to provide training and networking opportunities for those in recreation. The Brea resident was also a board member for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program in Orange County and was an ambassador to the Korean Bell of Friendship Committee.

He volunteered on wellness issues for the College of Health and Human Services at Cal State, Long Beach,

and he received the 2015 Alumni Community Service Award from the school.

Phil served the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Henderson during the Vietnam conflict.

“He was definitely a people person,” Penny continues. “He made friends easily. After retirement, he would join several nonprofit groups/boards to help the community – RLACEI Retired Los Angeles City Employees; volunteer groups; Orange County senior community outreach; and others. He was always willing to help someone in need.

“Even in the end, Phil did his best to resolve problems. On his last hospital stay, when they insisted on doing many tests, he longed to be home instead. He called and demanded I bring him home, but I said no. About an hour later, the nurse called to inform me that Phil had called 911 from the hospital phone to have the paramedics take him home from the hospital. True Phil ingenious.

“Rest in peace my faithful and loyal companion.”

We offer condolences to his wife, Penny; extended family; friends; and former coworkers. ■



Penny and Phil Orland.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
MOVING TRIBUTES TO PHIL:**

Neil M. Guglielmo
General Manager, LACERS

Robert Larios
*President and CEO
Employees Club of California*

Ruth Perry
President, RLACEI

Beverly J. Clark
Vice President, RLACEI

Jackie Koci Tamayo
*Emergency Services Coordinator
Alameda County Superior Court
Club Ambassador*

Arlene Herrero
*Vice President of Business Development
The Club*

Mariana Guevara
*Ticket and Benefit Procurement
The Club*

Noelle Kauffman
*Director of Sales
The Club*

Trinh Pham
*Sr. Accountant
The Club*



Penny and Phil Orland.



Phil at home.



Phil serving the US Navy during the Vietnam conflict.



Phil and family.

Photos by the Club, and courtesy the Orland family

TRIBUTES

Phil was an outstanding City employee and friend. We met while working for Rec and Parks, and we were able to work together on some projects in the LA Harbor Region.

Phil cared deeply about the community and the... people. He was patient, generous and always willing to step in and overcome challenges. As a Retired Member of LACERS, Phil would offer valuable insight into the experiences of our Members and ways in which we could expand outreach and access to our programs.

Phil exemplified the finest qualities of our dedicated City employees, and I am honored to have worked with him over the years. He will be missed by many.

— Neil M. Guglielmo,
General Manager LACERS

Phil Orland: A legacy of service.

I’ll never forget the day I met Phil. He was a man with so much heart and spirit, always looking out for others before himself.

Phil Orland’s life was dedicated to serving others – a father, a husband, a friend, a dedicated civil servant, a community volunteer, a mentor, and a US Navy Vietnam veteran. He often spoke about his time as a U.S Navy seaman. During the Vietnam War, he served on one of our country’s destroyers named the USS Henderson. On top of that, Phil talked with excitement about his enriching experiences and career at the City of Los Angeles’ Recreation and Parks, where he managed recreation programs that covered all ages. He loved working for the City of LA, especially with the countless co-workers he met during his career journey. This resulted into an impressive network of friends and colleagues.

Phil Orland was a man of many hats, and his service to others will be remembered long after his passing. Phil was a man of great compassion and empathy, always looking out for others. He had strong opinions about politics, but it came from a good place in his heart because he wanted everyone to live their best lives possible.

That’s why I’m so honored that this man considered me one such individual worthy enough for advice on how we could serve municipal Retirees together when he was a Board member for the Employees Club. That was the kind of man he was, always looking to help others.

May his legacy live on among the lives he touched. Rest in Peace, Phil.

— Robert Larios, President and CEO
Employees Club of California

The RLACEI Board of Directors expresses its deep sadness on the passing of Phil Orland. He was a man of service; everyone who crossed his path benefited just from meeting him. His love for the City of Los Angeles, the Dept. of Recreation and Parks, and of all who participated in any of the events he organized showed through his actions and positive attitude. His smile warmed hearts and his generosity was beyond compare. We extend our condolences to all Phil’s family and friends. Phil will be missed greatly, he was one of the few individuals who truly fit the words, “He was one of a kind.”

— Ruth Perry,
President, RLACEI

I will always have a smile on my face when I think of Phil. He had a wealth of information, but one of my fondest memories is when he introduced me to Starbucks “Happy Hour”!

I met Phil in 1996 when we both worked for Recreation and Parks, Pacific Region. Phil would often drop by the office, and we would have a discussion on a variety of issues. We once again reconnected in 2019 when we both served on the board of Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI). Although our views many times differed, he was a great friend; we enjoyed conversations on various topics and respected each other’s opinions and often laughed about our different perspectives. It is not often you can find someone you feel...



Read Phil’s wife Penny’s complete memorial.

Tributes continue on page 21.

THE CLUB



Jim Thompson

*Staff Member,
Employees Club of California
Club Back Office Coordinator*

REMEMBERING
JIM THOMPSON
1950-2022

Photos by the Club and courtesy the Thompson family

Jim Thompson, who managed and coordinated a host of duties in the Club's back office, died Aug. 11. He was 72.

Most Club Members might not have known Jim, but he was integral to their Club experience and the high level of service they have come to enjoy from the Club. Jim made the Club engine hum.

In short order, here's a list of just some of Jim's duties:

- Purchased all computers, monitors, odds and ends supplies, and snacks for the office
- Purchased and maintained all Association vehicles
- Retrieved and disseminated all mail, as well as assembling and preparing all mass mailings for postal delivery
- Was the primary contact with building maintenance for all physical property needs
- Maintained supply room and did all heavy lifting when moving supplies
- Purchased, assembled, moved and retired all office furniture
- Delivered many items to outside vendors or other Association locations from main office



Lee Thompson, Club Controller, and her late husband, Jim, Club Back Office Coordinator, with grandchildren.

Jim, who was half Apache, was raised in New Mexico on a Native American reservation until he was 9, and then was raised in Venice and Hollywood. He attended Hollywood High School.

For most of his career, he was a mechanic and service writer for auto repairs. An auto enthusiast, he owned at least six customized vehicles

at the time of his passing.

He was married to Leigh Thompson, the Club's Controller, for nearly 44 years. Jim and Leigh had three children and several grandchildren, including Megan Eckert, the Club's Ticket and Benefits Procurement Associate, and granddaughter-in-law Rebecca DeBolt, the Club's Data Processing Coordinator.

The Club bids goodbye to Jim and thanks him for his sometimes hidden but always unceasing service to Club Members. Our sympathies go to Leigh, Megan, Rebecca and Jim's family, co-workers and friends. ■

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MOVING TRIBUTES TO JIM:

Leigh Thompson
*Controller, the Club
Widow of Jim Thompson*

John Hawkins
*President and CEO
Los Angeles City Employees
Association, Inc.*

Robert Larios
*President and CEO
Employees Club of California*

Petros Khachatryan
*Director of IT
The Club*

Ronald Cortez
*Assistant Quality Assurance
Analyst
The Club*

Cheryl Martin
*Counselor
The Club*

Trinh Pham
*Sr. Accountant
The Club*

Cesilee Castillo
*Customer Service Rep
The Club*

Noah Hawkins
*Customer Service Rep
The Club*

Arlene Herrero
*Vice President of Business
Development
The Club*

Mariana Guevara
*Ticket and Benefit Procurement
The Club*

Noelle Kauffman
*Director of Sales
The Club*

Tiffany Sy
*Counselor
The Club*

Dylan Noel
*CRM Business Analyst
The Club*

Dalila Vielma
*Counselor
The Club*

Mikayla Dooley-Sprague
*Claims Coordinator
The Club*

Monica Zamudio
*Claims Administrator
The Club*

TRIBUTES

I told my husband years ago that if anything happened to him, I would not replace him. After having the perfect husband, I can't imagine settling for less. I just want everyone to know how very much I appreciated everything he did for me. I love him, and miss him so much.

— Leigh Thompson,
Controller, the Club
Widow of Jim Thompson



Jim Thompson during his service to the US Navy.

You were never just a friend of Jim, you were a project of his. Whenever you talked with him, half his brain was listening to see what your desires and wants were; in the back of his mind he was trying to figure out what he could secretly surprise you with. That's just the kind of guy Jim was. A heart of gold. A man on a mission to please those around him, whether it was his family, a coworker or friend. When you least expected it there would be a case of your favorite granola bars on your desk, or maybe a die-cast model car that you happened to mention you like, or maybe just a magazine on a topic you were interested in. Jim loved surprising people; the bigger the surprise, the happier he was.

I first met Jim more than 20 years ago. He was a rough, no-nonsense, tell-it-like-it-is, open-book, no-holds-barred kind of guy. As the years went on he became much softer, and somewhat of a father figure to many of the Club staff. Not the demanding type

of father who scolded and disciplined; he was more of the "let me hold that firework while you light it" kind of father. He encouraged staff to think differently. He loved to educate and would often seek out and give information to staff if they were interested in a particular topic. He was always thinking of how he could impact the lives of those around him. Always. And when he wasn't thinking of what he could do for

someone he was reading a book. He read lots of books, I think maybe a book a week. And when he wasn't reading, he was working with metal, or more specifically on his cars. Jim loved metal ... anything metal. He loved welding, modifying his cars by hand and from scratch. He welded, he riveted, he hand-fashioned fenders, he could literally do anything with metal.

Jim was also a walking Master Class on storytelling, and his stories always related to something you may have been talking about. Stories of him growing up, his time in the Navy, or meeting his wife Leigh, or, my favorite, his tales of sailing around the tip of South America; there were stories for every situation and occasion. Speaking of Leigh, I'm not sure if I have ever seen someone love someone so truly, so purely as Jim loved Leigh. He would do anything for Leigh, and I mean anything. He adored her, placed her on a pedestal, protected her, and did everything in his power to make her life as carefree and enjoyable as possible.

I am missing Jim so much; I miss his candor, his one-liners, his curiosity, and I especially miss hearing him colorfully coax the letter-sorting machine for hours on end when it wasn't cooperating.

Rest in peace, Jim.

— John Hawkins,
President and CEO
Los Angeles City Employees
Association, Inc.

Jim Thompson was a man of many talents and an even bigger heart. He may not have been the most well-known member of the Club, but his impact on the lives of those he met was profound. His life experiences instilled in him a love and respect for all people and cultures. He was always quick to offer words of wisdom or encouragement, whether you were having a bad day or struggling with a problem.

A true auto enthusiast, Jim loved nothing more than working on cars. He loved customizing his own cars and spending time tinkering in the garage. He would often talk with me about adding horsepower, changing tires or sharing his excitement for receiving a car part delivered by UPS like any child does when they get something with anticipation.

His skills transcended into a love affair with metalworking – welding was no exception! His ability to know something about just about everything made him a valuable member of the Club back office. He was like a utility player, to use a sports analogy. And his wisdom was evident in the quotes he would often share with those around him. "Likely story...", he would say, or "Your chef knives are like my mechanic tools." When you read the other tribute messages, it is easy to see that Jim had an abundance of wise one-liners. His sage advice will be missed by all who knew him and enjoyed his company in life's little moments.

He will be deeply missed by all who knew him – I already do. He was a kind-hearted man with a passion for life, his wife Leigh, and his entire family. Jim touched the lives of everyone he met, and his memory will live on with me, all who knew him, and here in this tribute in *Alive!* for many years to come. Rest in peace, Jim. Your legacy will live on forever through the stories you've told us and how they made people feel about themselves over time.

— Robert Larios, President and CEO
Employees Club of California



Leigh and Jim Thompson at their wedding.

Tributes continue on page 22.

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— Robert Larios, Publisher, September 17, 2022

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Now - Oct 31

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COUNCIL

¡Viva México!

CLUB CEO ROBERT LARIOS JOINS CITY'S CELEBRATION OF MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE.

The City marked Mexican Independence Day with an El Grito celebration downtown outside City Hall and in Grand Park. One of the event's sponsors, Councilman Gil Cedillo, invited Club CEO Robert Larios to join the celebration. Other event sponsors included the City, the Consulate General of Mexico in Los Angeles, and Comité Mexicano Civico Patriótico. It marked the 212th anniversary of the Independence of Mexico, and the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month in LA. ●

At the El Grito event.

Eric Robles, General Services, Club Member (left) with Club CEO Robert Larios.

Alive! AROUND THE WORLD



Captain's Log

Traveling with Capt. Michael Barnes, *Retired, Harbor*



Plumbing at the Top of the World

The Haleakala Volcano, or, in English, the house of the sun, sits 10,023 feet above sea level and forms more than three-quarters of Maui's 727 square miles. The rest of the island is formed by another volcano, called Mauna Kahalawai.

To reach the crater at the summit, you have to pass through the Haleakala National Park. A long, winding well-maintained road, containing many blind turns, very steep drop-offs without guardrails, and 32 switchbacks, holds the world record for climbing to the highest elevation in the shortest distance, 35 miles.

Sometimes cows and geese cross the highway; watch out for them when the conditions are foggy. The National Park Service has suspended commercial bicycle tours within the park after many fatal bike accidents; they are still a danger on the lower slopes of the highway, especially on blind corners when the cyclists tend to swing wide.

The last place for food or petrol is in Makawao, but there is a clean restroom at the visitor center restrooms halfway up and at the crater car park at the top. It takes about 90 minutes to drive the road without stopping to admire the "moonlike" scenery. The car park in the crater holds only 75 cars, which is not a problem during the daytime, but for romantics wishing to see the sunrise, it is a big problem as you need a reservation; the Park Ranger allows no last-minute drive-ups at the entrance. (You must book one-to-two months in advance) Note: The sunset is just as magnificent, and not as crowded.

From the summit, when looking down into a massive barren depression, see if you can spot a silversword plant. It grows only here and nowhere else on Earth.

The crater car park is dotted with numerous rare Ahinahina plants and Nene (Hawaiian geese), and can be seen wandering around near the car park restrooms and the steps leading up to the observatory.

Even at this high altitude, plumbers are needed. We watched them, dressed like astronauts, resolving the car park's plumbing problems

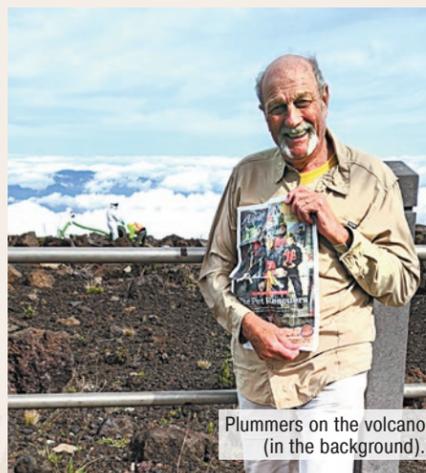
For hikers, there are two trails leading into the crater from the summit area – the Halemau'u and Sliding Sands trails. The unusually clear views of the night sky here make Haleakala one of the best places in the United States for amateur astronomy, so bring your binoculars or telescopes. This is also the site of Hawaii's first astronomical research observatory, whose twin 30-foot Keck Observatory telescopes is open to the public only by appointment.

The sun sets at about 5:30 p.m. in the winter and 7 p.m. in the summer, and for early mornings and late evenings visits, I recommend that you bring a sweater or in winter a coat, as flip flops and a tank top, even though fashionable, won't keep you warm as it gets cold and windy at this high altitude. Also, if you plan on stargazing, bringing something to sit on would also be nice. I recommend viewing the stars about an hour after sunset

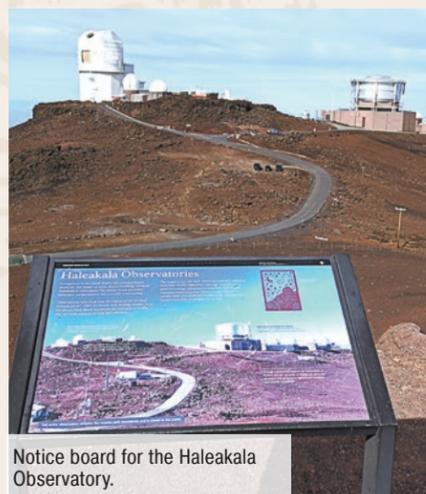
Tip: Buy a senior National Park pass for \$20 from the park warden. It covers the entrance for the whole car, plus it can be used for all the other parks nationwide.

Cheers!

Letter From Lahaina, Pt. 2



Plumbers on the volcano (in the background).



Notice board for the Haleakala Observatory.



Standing by The Haleakala National Park.

Switzerland



"While visiting the beautiful city of Montreux, Switzerland during their fabulous Montreux Jazz Festival, I made sure to visit the famous Freddy Mercury statue that faces the amazing Lake Geneva and captured a photo with *Alive!* The Alps are in the background and their waterfront is just to be admired."

– Cecilia Moreno, Harbor



"This photo was taken above the town of Grindelwald, Switzerland. The Eiger Mountain of the Alps is in the background. That's me in the photo. We took a 25-minute gondola ride from the village to this location, with its spectacular scenery."

– Patrick Tomcheck, Retired, Airports

Italy



"Alberobello, Italy: This small town in the Puglia region of southern Italy is famous for its unique 'trulli' buildings. They are whitewashed stone huts with mortar-less conical roofs. They have been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1996."

– Norman Faner, Retired, LADWP, and Florian Faner, Retired, General Services

Send in a travel picture holding the *Alive!*



- Snap a high resolution photo of you holding *Alive!*
- Go to: alive.employeesclub.com/alivearoundtheworld. You'll find a convenient online form to send your text and pics for publication.



CLUB STORE Holiday Schedule

For the 2022 holiday season, the physical Club Store will be open on a limited basis for all your holiday needs! The Club Webstore will be open 24/7 for shipping (see below for deadlines), with limited curbside pickup options, too.

Physical Club Store Hours:

Open:

- Mon.- Fri., 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Closed:

- Oct. 10 (Monday), closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day
- Nov. 11 (Friday), closed for Veterans Day
- Nov. 24-25 (Thursday/Friday), closed for Thanksgiving
- Dec. 26 (Monday), closed for Christmas
- Jan. 2. (Monday), closed for the New Year holiday

The Club Store is also closed for curbside pickup on the above days.

Staff Meetings: The physical Club Store is closed every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. for staff meetings.

ORDER ONLINE 24/7

The online Club Webstore is open 24/7, but orders are not processed on holidays. www.employeesclub.com

Shipping: If you want your Club Webstore order to arrive by Christmas using shipping, the Club recommends you order by the close of business Dec. 15 (standard shipping) and Dec. 17 (priority shipping). Don't wait!

Curbside Pickup: Club Webstore orders will be processed and available for curbside pickup (by request) instead of shipping Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. except those days listed above.

Happy Holidays from the Club Store!



Read All About It: It's Halloween!

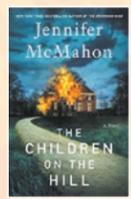
We asked Librarians to recommend some scary Halloween stories. You are warned!

The last few years, *Alive!* has reached out to Librarians at our favorite library, Los Angeles Public Library, for their recommendations for awesomely scare Halloween reads and watches. We have done the same for 2022, and here are fresh recommendations for you and your family this Halloween, traditionally the first event of the holiday season. Thanks to the Librarians for their suggestions. Enjoy these spooky stories, everyone! (Some are available via digital download; some are physical books available for curbside pickup. Search at lapl.org)



For Adults

Compiled by Librarian Sheryn Morris

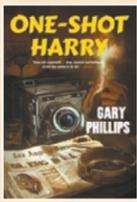


Children on the Hill
Jennifer McMahon
Podcaster Lizzy Shelley travels to Vermont to find an abducted girl who might be staying at the home of a supposedly sweet grandmother. Chock full of suspense, this adult novel will give the most jaded among us some scary thrills.

One-Shot Harry

Gary Phillips

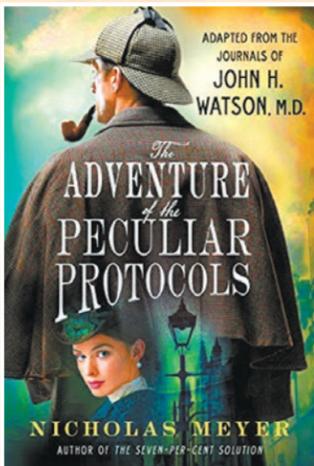
A unique take on a crime investigation when an African American news photographer knows something and is not quite right about the cause of death of his good friend and Army buddy. Gary Phillips gives readers a compelling historical murder mystery that peels back the Los Angeles of 1963.



The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols: Adapted From the Journals of John D. Watson, M.D.

Nicholas Meyer

In the Sherlock Holmes series, Dr. John H. Watson is Sherlock Holmes' good friend and occasional sidekick. This novel riffs on that relationship when a newly discovered document takes the duo, along with a beautiful woman, into Tsarist Russia. They need to discover the document's validity, but there are others who are hot on the same path.

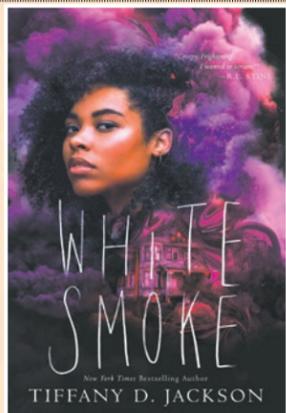


For Teen/Young Adult Readers

Compiled by Amanda Charles, Librarian III, and Llyr Heller, Librarian II

FICTION TITLES

White Smoke
Tiffany D. Jackson



The Halloween Moon

Joseph Fink

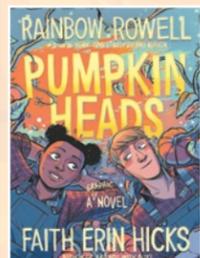
Burn Down, Rise Up

Vincent Tirado

All These Bodies

Kendare Blake

GRAPHIC NOVEL/MANGA TITLES



Pumpkinheads: A Graphic Novel
Rainbow Rowell

Spell on Wheels

Kate Leth

Sheets

Brenna Thummler

Mooncake

Suzanne Walker

Death Note Short Stories

Tsugumi Oba

Tokyo Ghoul

Sui Ishida

For Young Readers

Compiled by Librarians of the Children's Literature Department

PICTURE BOOKS

10 Spooky Pumpkins

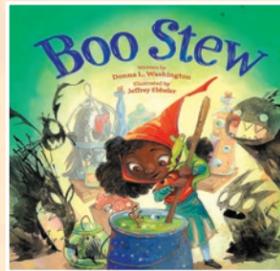
Gris Grimly

In this spooky and whimsical countdown, a little girl encounters an array of Halloween haunts from black cats and witches to goblins and ghosts.

Boo Stew

Donna L. Washington

Nobody in Toadsuck Swamp seems to enjoy Curly Locks's spooky recipes – except maybe the Scares who are haunting the town.



Gustavo the Shy Ghost

Flavia Z. Drago

It can be hard to make friends when you're shy, but even harder when you're a ghost! Gustavo the Ghost will charm readers with his story of courage and friendship.

If Animals Trick or Treated

Ann Whitford Paul

A variety of critters carve pumpkins, select costumes, and give out treats to suit their species. This sweet, rhyming book is a terrific introduction to Halloween for little ones.

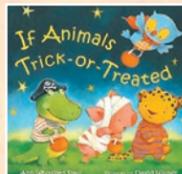
CHAPTER BOOKS

Nina Soni, Halloween Queen

Kashmira Sheth

Nina, with the help of her little sister, has created an awesome haunted house, but still hasn't come up with a great Halloween costume, and now her best friend Jay is acting weird!

Book 4 in a great early chapter book series.



The Pug Who Wanted to be a Pumpkin

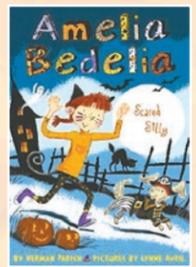
Bella Swift

Peggy the pug understands human language, so she knows that her best human friend, Chloe, is nervous about Halloween. Can she help Chloe find the perfect costume so she can have fun trick or treating? Read the book to find out!

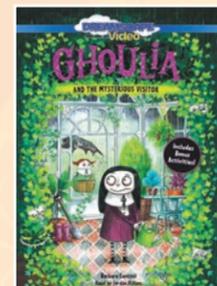
Amelia Bedelia, Scared Silly

Herman Parish

The annual Halloween Haunted Hayride is canceled! Can Amelia Bedelia come up with a scary plan to give her friends the chills they crave? Recipe and craft instructions are included!



DVDS



Ghoulia

A zombie girl uses Halloween as an opportunity to make some friends. A short animated film based on the book by Barbara Cantini.

Goosebumps 2: Haunted Halloween

Slappy, everyone's favorite creepy puppet, escapes from a haunted book along with other Goosebumps characters



Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc.

RLACEI

For Retired Club Members

CONTACT INFORMATION

Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. (RLACEI)

 Ruth B. Perry, President
Terminal Annex
P.O. Box 86264
Los Angeles, CA 90086
PHONE: (800) 678-4145, ext. 717
EMAIL: Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org
ON THE WEB: www.RLACEI.org

2022 Executive Board of Directors

- Ruth B. Perry, *President*
- Beverly J. Clark, *First Vice President*
- Mark Blunk, *Second Vice President*
- Loucin (Lucy) Artinian, *Treasurer*
- Nancy Hammoudian, *Secretary*

RLACEI DIRECTORS

Dial (800) 678-4145 plus extension

Beverly Anderson, Director	Ext. 702
Loucin (Lucy) Artinian, Treasurer	Ext. 718
Mark Blunk, Audit Chair	Ext. 704
Beverly J. Clark, Publicity Director	Ext. 716
Dennis Harding, Entertainment Director	Ext. 706
Nancy Hammoudian, Director	Ext. 705
Tom Moutes, Director	Ext. 710
Verkin (Vicki) Keoseian, Director	Ext. 719
Ruth B. Perry, Membership Director	Ext. 717
Elizabeth Torres, Director	Ext. 703

RLACEI RETIREE HELPLINE:

(800) 678-4145, Ext. 0

For retirement assistance, call the Retiree Hotline and leave a message. A Director of RLACEI will return your call and assist you with your concerns.

RLACEI WEBSITE

Visit the RLACEI website www.RLACEI.org to find the latest retirement news. Call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 0 to make suggestions.
EMAIL: Contact@RLACEI.org

MAILING ADDRESS:

Retired Los Angeles City Employees Inc.
Terminal Annex
P.O. Box 86264
Los Angeles, CA 90086

Change of Address?

Please notify Ruth B. Perry, Membership Chair, at (800) 678-4145 ext. 717 or Ruth.Perry@RLACEI.org for a change of address or to add or change your email address. Also notify LACERS, ACEBSA, LAPCU, and LAFUCU as applicable.



Send in your Interesting News Contributions!

Contact: **Beverly J. Clark**, Publicity Director
Email: Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org or
Phone: (800) 678-4145 ext 716

RETIREE EVENTS

Dec. 15, 2022 Annual Holiday Party
11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. *Friendship Auditorium*
3201 Riverside Dr.

Reservation Line:
RLACEI events (800) 678-4145, ext. 701

RETIREES ON THE MOVE

Meet Eugene Mandelcorn

by Beverly J. Clark, Publicity Director



Beverly J. Clark

Eugene Mandelcorn retired from the Los Angeles Public Library in 2003 after 30 years of civil service to devote his time to expanding upon the programs he passionately developed while working for the City. Before working with the City, Eugene was employed with Metropolitan State Hospital in Norwalk, working in the Patient Library department. He also worked in the Attorney General's Law Library. Eugene, of course, loves retirement, has been married for 37 years and has one daughter.

Some of Eugene's many City programs included the Festival on Wheels, the Astronomy Festival: Night of the Stars, and the most exciting of all, The Teen Comic Age and Animation Festival, which was held five times with the most successful event drawing more than 19,000 in attendance. Of course, having Stan Lee (comic book writer, editor, publisher and producer) as the Master of Ceremonies that year didn't hurt.

Since retirement, Eugene has kept himself busy and is now involved in running an International Studio Without Borders or Walls that specializes in a whole new genre of film. He says, "This



genre does more than just entertain or make us forget about our problems, but actually offers possible solutions to the problems we face every day."



Eugene Mandelcorn

During the pandemic, Eugene wrote and produced the first narrative feature film in the solution genre entitled, "Lee'd the Way." It will be distributed around the world by Buffalo 8, a Bondit Company.

What's next? Eugene is not stopping there. He is working on a sequel and a spin-off to "Lee'd the Way." Global Hands, a section of the International Studio, will be teaching new filmmakers how to write and produce in the solution genre, which, like horror films, does not need stars and can be made on a low budget. Another one of his goals in making "Lee'd the Way" was to interest new filmmakers to work in this new genre; instead of competing to see who can scare or frighten the most people, they can make films that inspire, uplift and make one feel that anything is possible.

Eugene plans to offer a possible solution to the homeless crisis in LA in the sequel to the first solution film. In "Lee'd the Way," many possible solutions are offered to problems, but in the sequel, his team plans to actually implement the solution to homelessness, while making the movie.

What was your inspiration to take on this project and attempt these enterprising endeavors after retirement?

"I took a course that LACERS Well offered called 'Living a Life of Purpose' with Sean Foy and decided to follow through on that purpose after the class."

Eugene is enjoying retirement and has found his niche to keeping busy and productive as well as looking for solutions to today's social challenges. He wishes everyone "all the best and to stay safe!" ■

CARRIE'S CORNER

Wisdom from RLACEI's 100-year-old member.

by Beverly J. Clark, Publicity Director

Carrie A. Gabriel began working for the City in 1946 and retired in 1978. She was featured in Alive! earlier this year when she celebrated her 100th birthday Jan. 28. With all the wisdom, experiences and changes she has seen throughout the 20th and now 21st centuries, we thought it would be interesting to get her perspective on various topics of the day.



Carrie A. Gabriel

If any reader is interested in her opinion or viewpoint on a certain topic, please contact Beverly Clark at Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org.

Question: With so many changes in the world, especially with the onset of technology – where you can access just about anything – how have you embraced technology?

I use my computer daily and encourage seniors to get onboard. You really don't want to be left behind. When I was growing up, we had one library in my hometown and one library at school. Any information we needed we had to look it up in encyclopedias

and reference books. Now information is at your fingertips. I can remember when the radio was the only source of information, then came the black and white TV, and then the color TV.

When I was working for the City, I was a supervisor in the newly created computer center, which was part of Data Service Bureau. We were able to transition from using data cards to using other ways of inputting information into computers. It is now called ITA (Information Technology Agency).

I am curious about things, so I go on the computer to get information. I love that it is just that easy to access just about anything.

Now we live in a world where phones are like computers. I use my computer and printer, but I'm not so good with using the phone other than to make phone calls. My two grandsons are very computer savvy and have helped me with my computer skills. Although I don't use Facebook or any of the other social media platforms, I welcome the new technology and find it fascinating. ■

Refer a Friend, Get a \$25 Target Gift Card

Let your fellow City Retiree friends know about the great benefits of being an RLACEI member. Encourage them to call (800) 678-4145, ext. 717, or visit the Website at RLACEI.org, to join today! 100 gift cards are available to be won. Once they join RLACEI and mention you, the gift card is yours!

What are you waiting for? Refer a friend today!

Looking for a Board Member With Computer Skills



Computer savvy RLACEI Board Director needed!

Experience and skills in Webpage maintenance, Facebook management and extensive Microsoft Office proficiency particularly wanted. Other computer skills greatly appreciated. If you enjoy working with and assisting City retirees, join us.

For more information on this position contact:

Dennis Harding at: (800) 678-4145, ext. 706
Email: Dennis.Harding@RLACEI.org or
Beverly Clark at: Beverly.Clark@RLACEI.org

LACERS BOARD UPDATE

LACERS Sets New Health Subsidy Amounts



Michael R. Wilkinson

by Michael R. Wilkinson, LACERS Commissioner
 Email: MikeWilkinson4LACERS@gmail.com

Okay, it might not be the most exciting thing that the LACERS Board does each year, but it is important when the LACERS Board sets the maximum health subsidy amounts. This article will be a summary since the amounts are a little too detailed to explain every situation.

The good news is that our very well-funded health benefits (107 percent funded as of the most recent year) will be providing subsidies that cover most of the premium cost for health coverage for most members. For the upcoming 2023 plan year, 92.4 percent of the medical premium cost is covered by the health subsidy.

Some of the health subsidies are covered by ordinance and some are set by the Board, and these are the maximum subsidies. You may qualify for less depending on your years of service. The Board approved a maximum medical subsidy of \$1,962.20 for Tier 1 Discretionary and Vested Retired Members under age 65 or enrolled in Medicare Part B only. The Board approved the maximum increase allowable; the dollar increases to the two-party premium for the Kaiser health plan for this group of members. This is also the amount for the Medical Premium Reimbursement Program (MPRP) for members living outside the LACERS health plans' coverage areas.

More good news: The percentage increase to the Kaiser

two-party plan of 4.3 percent was well under the cap under the Los Angeles Administrative Code of 7 percent for the three-year average of other plans. Healthy eating and exercising will encourage general wellness and reduce the cost of our health plans as well.

For members who have Medicare Part A and B for Tier 1 and Tier 3, the maximum subsidy was set at \$494.67. This is also the amount for the MPRP for this group.

The maximum dental subsidy was set at \$43.81 per month, an amount that cannot exceed the amount paid to active City employees. This restriction resulted in a slight decrease to the subsidy. ■

RLACEI 2022 ANNUAL MEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022
11:30 A.M.— 2:00 P.M.

FRIENDSHIP AUDITORIUM
3201 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90027

Open to all Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. members!

**RSVP to (800) 678-4145
Ext 701**
Please RSVP no later than
December 7, 2022.

RLACEI member plus one (1) guest limit at no cost.
No additional guests allowed at this time due to attendance limitations and social distancing requirements. To join RLACEI, call (800) 678-4145 Ext. 717.

RLACEI 2022 Holiday Party Reservation Form

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Number of Attendees _____ (Limit 2)

Email to Contact@RLACEI.org or mail to RLACEI, P.O. Box 86264, Los Angeles, CA 90086

Only RLACEI members will be eligible to win prizes.

Follow RLACEI on Facebook



Connect to RLACEI on Facebook, and you'll be eligible to win a \$5 gift card for See's Candies or Starbucks or one RLACEI reusable cloth bag. Prizes will go to the first 150 to like the RLACEI Facebook page.

HOW TO ENTER

CURRENT RLACEI MEMBERS:
Follow us on Facebook

OTHER CITY RETIREES:
Join RLACEI and like us on Facebook



September Winners

New RLACEI Members:
Denise McGee

Congratulations for joining RLACEI and our Facebook page! Follow RLACEI here: www.facebook.com, and search for "RLACEI"

Referral Winner:
*Reylindahl Brown
Cathy Bushey
Michael Cooper
Simone McDade
Diana Medina*

Thanks for the referral!

Become an RLACEI Member

RLACEI is dedicated to advocating for retiree interests. We are over 5,500 strong! Members of the Retired Los Angeles City Employees, Inc. enjoy all RLACEI events such as the golf tournament, member picnic and holiday party with FREE membership to the Employees Club with access to all group benefits (insurance, discounts, etc.).

Call (800) 678-4145 x717, or visit our website at RLACEI.ORG and join today!



RETIREES UPDATE

Are LACERS Investments Bad for Its Members? PT. 2



Tom Moutes

by Tom Moutes, RLACEI Director
 Email: Tom.Moutes@RLACEI.org

Last month I detailed some the issues private equity buyout firms cause in our society. Those issues include, but are not limited to, pursuing profits above care in the healthcare and nursing home industries; outbidding individuals who want to purchase homes; and buying mobile home parks and dramatically raising rents. Some buyout firms increase profits by eliminating positions and even slashing pensions at the firms they acquire.

With all of those issues regarding buyout firms, it would be reasonable to ask why LACERS invests in them. LACERS, along with most other public pension systems, invests in buyout funds to help the systems meet their assumed investment returns – 7 percent in LACERS case. Investing in these funds has become even more popular in recent years as it has become more difficult for public pension systems to

consistently meet or beat their assumed investment returns without such investments.

If LACERS chooses not to invest in buyout funds, other investors will gladly jump on the investment opportunities, as access to these funds often is highly competitive. While not investing in buyout funds may give LACERS a moral high ground, it would make it more difficult for the LACERS Board and staff to ensure a well-funded pension system.

Because investors in buyout funds turn over almost all of the investment control for such funds to the private equity firms, LACERS would not be able to influence the specific investments the firms make. So once LACERS invests, it has extremely little influence.

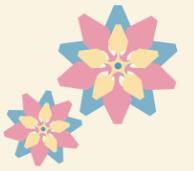
Even getting a coalition of public pension funds across the country to not invest in private equity buyout funds likely would not work due to sovereign wealth funds and other wealthy investors who would largely fill in the funding gap.

So, what is the solution to help ensure pension funds are not investing in ways that will make the everyday lives of their members worse? We need federal legislation and/or oversight on the acquisitions buyout funds make. This will not be at all easy. Even the small proposed change to the way private equity profit is taxed recently got pulled (again) from proposed federal legislation as the vast profits buyout firms make can pay for an army of lobbyists and huge political contributions.

I hope LACERS can work with some of the state and national organizations to which it belongs to help craft proposed legislation that would help regulate private equity buyout firms. This legislation could help minimize the aspects of these firms that are detrimental to the lives of many Americans, while possibly allowing buyout firms to continue to operate in less problematic ways. ■



Life's Important Moments



Share your news... and send in a photo!

Have you gotten married? Had a baby? Graduated? Is a family member in the military? Send in a photo and a paragraph, telling us the details. We love to share your good news.

Send your photos and text online:
alive.employeesclub.com/lifemoments



- Births**
- Weddings**
- Graduations**
- Special Achievements**
- Military Service**
- Tell Their Story**

Retirements

View retirements online at: alive.employeesclub.com/retirements-202210

Here's a listing of all those who retired from the City through Sept. 13. To all we say, welcome to the Best Years!

NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS	NAME	TITLE	DEPT.	YEARS
Aben, Cesarito N.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D	Gomez, Enid	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Gen. Services	23	Rodriguez, Richard	Sr. Building Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	22
Alfaro, Juan G.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Guerra, Norberto	Equipment Operator	Airports	21	Rosas, Nicanier C.	Mgmt. Analyst	ITA	29
Ashley, Le Ann Terese	Traffic Officer	LADOT	28	Hall, Stanley G.	Sr. Bldg. Op. Engineer	Airports	19	Sedlacek, Mark J.	Sustainability Exec.	LADWP	N/D
Barajas, Sergio	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Housing	10	Hayes, Carmen L.	Sr. Admin. Clerk	Bldg. & Safety	39	Sexton, Raymond C.	Generation	LADWP	N/D
Barrera, Ernie M.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D	Herrera, Michael C.	Refuse Crew Field Instr.	Public Works	33	Schoenwald, Frank G.	Equipment Operator	Public Works	22
Benson, Ronald S.	Power C&M	LADWP	N/D	Hew, Sandy I.	Water Engineering	LADWP	N/D	Shull, Michael A.	General Mgr.	Rec and Parks	32
Binns, Yvette Renee	Sr. Police Service Rep	LAPD	28	Hill, Margret R.	Sr. Systems Analyst	LAPD	37	Shvarts, Margarita	Messenger Clerk	Library	10
Brault, Catherine Lynn	Police Service Rep	LAPD	27	Hughes, Pamela	JFB/Facilities	LADWP	N/D	Sibert, Brian Keith	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	34
Brown, Kevin J.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D	Ishii, Takeo	Equipment Mechanic	Airports	15	Silva, Silveria Ros	Dep. Chief Accountant	Airports	25
Brown, Shirley A.	Metering Services	LADWP	N/D	Jaw, Jing Wen J.	Structural Engineer	Public Works	29	Snell, Kim Marie	Custodian	Airports	14
Bui, Dung N.	Programmer/Analyst	Planning	23	Jimenez, Valente	JFB/Facilities	LADWP	N/D	Stanton, Cynthia L.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D
Burke Williams, Tiffany M.	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Airports	36	Johnson, Barbara J.	Systems Aide	EWDD	20	Su, Grant Y.	Water Distribution	LADWP	N/D
Campbell, Andrew F.	Integrated Support	LADWP	N/D	Kepton, David William	St. Services Supt.	Public Works	36	Tate, Terri A.	Workers Comp Claims Asst.	Personnel	17
Cannon, Michael A.	Fleet Services	LADWP	N/D	Kim, Jin Yong	Sr. Civil Engineer	Harbor	33	Taylor, Eric A.	Power Planning	LADWP	N/D
Chappelle, Dionne R.	Administrative Clerk	Public Works	18	Langendorf, Walter K.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D	Terasaki, Shin	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D
Cheng, David C.	Civil Eng. Associate	Public Works	18	Leonard, Aden N.	Sr. Chemist	Public Works	34	Thompson, Edwina Y.	Pr. Clerk	Finance	32
Christopherson, Matthew	Park Services Attend.	Rec and Parks	20	Lim, Andres	Water Engineering	LADWP	N/D	Thompson, Jimmy Lee	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	13
Cobb, Michael J.	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	30	Lopez, Leobardo S.	Elevator Mechanic	Gen. Services	31	Torres, Emma Marie	Accounting Clerk	CAO	20
Collins, John F.	Sr. Construction Insp.	Airports	31	Luckett, Stephanie	Systems Analyst	Planning	23	Vasquez, Arthur	Metering Services	LADWP	N/D
Coronel, Hector J.	ITS	LADWP	N/D	Maalouf, Nabil N.	Building Electr. Engr.	Bldg. & Safety	35	Vatanpour, Setareh G.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D
David, Joseph W.	Power Safety	LADWP	N/D	Macario, Fausto I.	Tax Auditor	Finance	30	Velazquez, Bertha Alicia	Mayoral Aide	Mayor's Office	17
Davis, Carolyn	Cement Finisher Wrkr.	Public Works	21	Martin, Tamara Lee	Sr. Mgmt. Analyst	Public Works	19	Villarruel, Juan C.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D
Davis, Mark Anthony	Custodian Supervisor	Gen. Services	19	Mascorro, Candace R.	Human Resources	LADWP	N/D	Villasenor, Ana	Special Prog. Asst.	Rec and Parks	8
Day, Carla J.	Customer Service	LADWP	N/D	McGeachy, Michael L.	Fleet Services	LADWP	N/D	Waddis, Gerald W.	Security Services	LADWP	N/D
Demonte, John A.	Power Supply	LADWP	N/D	Minor II, Donley D.	Metering Services	LADWP	N/D	Wang, Chao L.	Envnmtl Affairs Ofc.	Airports	30
Dickinson, Kelly L.	Benefits Specialist	LACERS	30	Morgan Jr, Harold D.	Fleet Services	LADWP	N/D	Williams, Jacqueline R.	Crossing Guard	LADOT	8
Eikenberry, Joseph P.	Sr. Electrical Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	15	Munhall, Tyler	Sr. Admin. Analyst	CAO	21	Wilson, Udell J.	Wastewater Coll. Wrkr.	Public Works	15
Fajardo, Bernadette B.	Mgmt. Analyst	LAPD	20	Myers, Robin	Mgmt. Analyst	Library	41	Wozniak, Richard F.	Solid Resources Mgr.	Public Works	47
Fernandez, Rogelio	Aquatic Facility Mgr.	Rec and Parks	29	Neal, Helen J.	Library Assistant	Library	21	Young, Edmond	Fleet Services	LADWP	N/D
Florez, Nannette A.	Police Officer	Airports	30	O'Connor, Catherine	Librarian	Library	33	Yu, David S.	ITS	LADWP	N/D
Freeman, John H.	Museum Guide	Rec and Parks	4	Obrycki, Fred Paul	Security Officer	LAPD	14	Yutronich, Johnny	Sr. Electrical Inspector	Bldg. & Safety	34
Fulkerson, Brant Jeffrey	C&M Gen. Sup.	Gen. Services	28	Ordorica, Leon M.	Power Transmission	LADWP	N/D				
Garrett, Kimberly Denise	Administrative Clerk	Library	20	Page, Timothy T.	Water Operations	LADWP	N/D				
Gatewood, Oscar	Police Officer	Airports	31	Petersen, Sharon L.	Power New Business	LADWP	N/D				
Gaunt, Donald E.	Supply Chain	LADWP	N/D	Phan, Tung	Database Architect	Bldg. & Safety	22				
Glass, James	Refuse Coll. Truck Op.	Public Works	15	Ramirez, Lorenzo	Mech. Repairer	Airports	25				

N/D = not disclosed

In Memoriam

Our thoughts and condolences are with the family and friends of the following current and retired City employees who have passed away.

DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE	DEPARTMENT	YEARS OF SERVICE
ACTIVE					
Crenshaw, Thomas O.	Harbor	19	Given, Arthur	LADWP	32
Frantoni, Cesar E.	LADWP	16	Goins, Jackie	N/D	N/D
Montenegro, Lidia E.	Rec and Parks	14	Govan, Clifford G.	N/D	N/D
Salazar, Andrea S.	LAPD	21	Griffith, Scott	Public Works	32
Tang, Dong	LADWP	4	Hanor, Danny L.	General Services	20
Trejo, Brian	LADWP	7	Heller, Carl J.	LADWP	44
			Hessler, Paul D.	Library	13
			Hildreth, Freddie L.	N/D	N/D
			Hill, Charles L.	N/D	N/D
			Humphrey Jr., Elmer B.	LADWP	25
			Johnston, Neal A.	N/D	N/D
			Kiechler, Patricia T.	LADWP	19
			La Voie, Raymond	N/D	N/D
			Lazerson, Jacob	ITA	26
			Legans, Beverly J.	Transportation	30
			Leon, Vernon P.	LADWP	26
			Lovell, Samuel R.	LADWP	25
			Luminarias, Eutiq C.	Public Works	27
			Macklin, Jerry J.	LADWP	35
			Marinkovich, Violet F.	Harbor	25
			McClure, Robert S.	LADWP	22
			McConnachie, George H.	N/D	N/D
			McNabb, Robert J.	Public Works	16
			Melvin, Norma	N/D	N/D
			Menson, Roy	Public Works	25
			Mercier, Wraydine S.	Personnel	13
			Miralles, Joerline O.	N/D	N/D
			Mixon, Katherine A.	Public Works	14
			Munoz, Venancio R.	LADWP	23
			Nash, Curtis D.	N/D	N/D
			Nathaniel, John M.	N/D	N/D
			Nelson, Laurence S.	Transportation	30
			Olive, Prather J.	N/D	N/D
			Orland, Phillip	Rec and Parks	37
			Piest, Walter A.	LADWP	9
			Pira, Giuseppe	Rec and Parks	44
			Redman, Terry D.	LADWP	29
			Rhodes, Percy L.	LADWP	34
			Rivello, John A.	LADWP	30
			Roberts, Ricky R.	LADWP	30
			Rodgers, Charles S.	N/D	N/D
			Rodriguez, Ronnie	ITA	22
			Smith, Ladawn	LADWP	30
			Subject, James T.	CAO	30
			Taylor, Robert M.	ITA	32
			Trammel, Leslie A.	Finance	34
			Viray, Teresa S.	Building and Safety	32
			Von Der Luhe, Laura	LADWP	38
			Washington, Edward	N/D	N/D
			Whang, Leo Ning Yuen	Building and Safety	33
			Wilson, Udell J.	Public Works	15
			Wulfestieg, Carl A.	LADWP	33
			Young, Ronald N.	LADWP	39
			Yu, Jenny C.	Library	23
			Zurn, Stanley P.	Public Works	21

N/D = not disclosed

Class of 2022

Graduations

Nina Rojas graduated with high honors from Norwalk High School. She's enrolled at Cerritos Community College and plans to transfer to Cal Poly Pomona, studying architectural engineering. She's the **granddaughter of David Rojas, Retired, LAPD.**

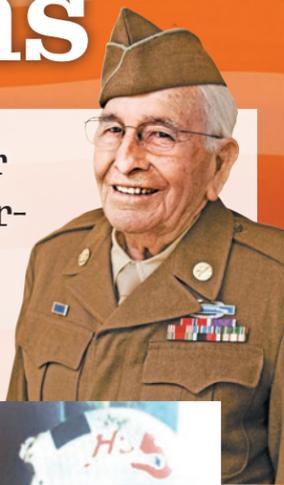


Imani Sumbi graduated from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, Media and Marketing Communications in Chicago. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism and plans to pursue a career in print journalism in Chicago. She's the **daughter of James Sumbi, LAPD.**

Salute to Veterans

Honor the Veteran in your life – family, friend or yourself – for Veterans Day!

In our November issue, we plan to post your photos and messages of the person in your life who has served our country (in uniform, if possible), to honor them for their service. We'll publish in print and online for Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 11, 2022.



DEADLINES:
In print: Monday, Oct. 17
Online: Friday, Nov. 4

Send in your images and messages at:
aliveemployeesclub.com/veterans/



Thank you for your service!

Larios In the City

BY ROBERT LARIOS, Chief Executive Officer



Congratulations!

Robert Larios, Club President and CEO, honors Club Members with the coveted Club Retirement Plaque.



Rena Shillings

Retired from the LADWP after 35 years of City service.

Retired or soon to be?

CLUB RETIREMENT PLAQUE FREE!

Receive your own personalized Club Retirement Plaque, free! (Must be a Club Member for at least five consecutive years.)

Get started here:



Jacinto Gomez Jr.,

Retired from the LADWP after 32.5 years of City service.



Maria Vizcarra

Retired from the LADWP after 40 years of City service.



Barry Southall

Retired from the LADWP after 41 years of City service.



Luis Rodriguez

Retired from Public Works/ Street Services after 34 years of City service.



Noe Pimentel

Retired from the LADWP after 35 years of City service.



Daphne Evangelista

Retired from the LADWP after 35 years of City service.



CLUB RETIREMENT PLAQUE AWARD



MUST HAVE 5 YEARS OF CLUB MEMBERSHIP* OR LONGER!

CLUB RETIREMENT PLAQUE GET YOURS FOR **FREE!**

VALUED AT
\$499



Celebrate alongside friends and family!

THE CLUB CELEBRATES YOUR RETIREMENT!

You've worked so hard your entire career. Retirement is an amazing achievement and a time to enjoy the fruits of your labor. It's a time to relax, reflect, and celebrate all that you've accomplished. You deserve it!

As a Club Member, we want to recognize and acknowledge the hard work and dedication you put in each day to make our city and state a better place to live and work.

If you plan to retire in the next 3 months, take part in the Club's Retirement Ceremony where you'll be presented with a customized Club Retirement Plaque as we pay tribute to your career. We will also feature you in the *Alive!* Newspaper.

AN EXCLUSIVE MEMBER BENEFIT

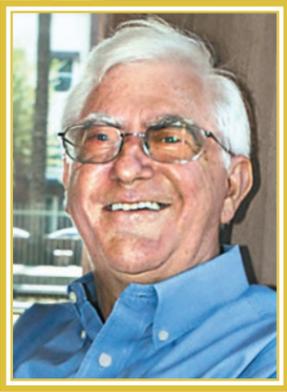
MEMBER ELIGIBILITY

- A plaque recipient must be a member of the Employees Club of California in good standing with at least five years of consecutive Club Membership.
- Must be a Club Member retiring from Los Angeles City, LADWP, or California State employment.



GET STARTED
EMPLOYEESCLUB.COM/PLAQUE

ALIVE! FEATURE



PHIL ORLAND — continued from page 11

completely comfortable with while disagreeing over a cup of chai latte!

Phil was dedicated to making the lives of others better. He was involved in many organizations to do just that. He loved to be of service. I am grateful for the years we shared and will miss him dearly.

— **Beverly J. Clark,**
Vice President, RLACEI

Though my interaction with Phil was brief during the Club Board meetings, his passion for the Club was infectious.

Sending thoughts of comfort to his family as they navigate during this difficult time.

— **Arlene Herrero,**
Vice President of Business Development
The Club

I am so sorry to hear of Phil's passing. He was such a joy to see at the few Retiree events I participated in. It sounds like he is at peace now. Sending some love to his family and prayers that they find comfort and joy in the memories they have of him.

His legacy will live on.

— **Mariana Guevara,**
Ticket and Benefit Procurement
The Club

When I was a very young recreation professional in City of Los Angeles Dept. of Recreation and Parks, Phil was the training and exercise lead for my region. He taught me the basics of city government, finance, and the system. New to the department, I

did not always understand why, however Phil told me that these tools are for my toolbox. I might not use them now, he told me, but one day I will.

He was so right. I learned two things from him: 1) the recreation way and 2) no matter the difference between generations you will always learn from one another. There may be some differences, but the tools and the concepts are the same. When Phil retired, his passion for service and recreation did not end. Phil, thank you for your years of service, mentoring the new generation, and leaving a piece of yourself with RAP. You will be missed!

— **Jackie Koci Tamayo,**
Emergency Services Coordinator
Alameda County Superior Court
Club Ambassador

Phil Orland, RLACEI Board Member, was a wonderful Club leader. He was always enthusiastic about new Club projects and supported our ideas and ultimate mission to celebrate the work and lives of municipal employees. We will miss him on our Board.

Rest in Peace, Phil.

— **Noelle Kauffman, Director of Sales,**
The Club



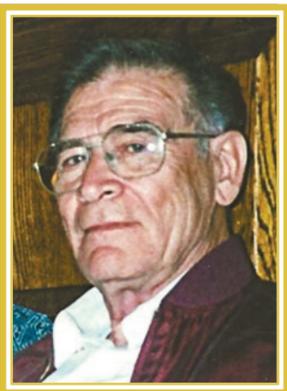
Phil Orland loved to travel with his wife, Penny.



Phil Orland loved to travel.

RIP Phil! Phil always valued attending Board meetings, whether it be in person or via conference call. Thank you for serving the LACEA board.

— **Trinh Pham, Sr. Accountant, The Club**



AMERICO GARZA — continued from page 10

The late Americo Garza was truly an admirable man. If you were lucky enough to meet Americo, you would quickly see why so many people admired him. He was a man of great integrity and character, exuding warmth, friendliness and care. His passion for life was evident in everything he did. He was always willing to help others and make them feel comfortable and included. It was clear that he genuinely cared about people and making the world a better place.

I knew that he loved his family, too, and cherished his family life. The vivid example was the enormous smile on his face (and eyes wide open) when he talked to me about his grandson, Patrick Nanson. And he would talk about him as if it were the first time you heard about Patrick – a Navy Seal – which brought forth great pride for Americo.

It was only later that I learned that this soft-spoken man was an engineer for Public Works and a board member for the Retired Los Angeles City Employees Association, Inc. (RLACEI); that he was the former co-founder and president of the Los Angeles City Employees Chicano Association (LACECA); and the co-founder of national Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. Americo's accomplishments are the stuff of legend. But these accomplishments, as outstanding as

they are, were merely reflections of Americo's remarkable character. Americo's life was an example of what it means to be truly diverse, equitable and inclusive. He set a positive tone that inspired others through his work, not just with words but also by being someone who brought people from all walks of life together in common cause for progress.

It has been an honor to know Americo over the years, and I will continue to cherish those experiences. A selfless champion for others, he touched countless lives with his kindness and gratitude – never failing to put others before himself in every endeavor, no matter how large or small it might have been! He will be remembered as one who made history by breaking barriers along racial lines long sealed off from society's gaze; and showing us all that equity can exist even if some remain skeptical about its possibility elsewhere.

May his light shine strong in eternity. Rest in Peace.

— **Robert Larios, President and CEO**
Employees Club of California

Every once in a while you meet someone you respect and like, one of which is Americo Garza. Americo was so gracious and kind – when you met him you instantly wanted to ask if there was anything you

could do for him. I first met him around 1982, when he helped me join LACECA, the Los Angeles City Employees Chicano Association. In this organization he helped put together reading materials and seminars to prepare for City tests (I really miss those). These seminars were open to all City employees and were extremely helpful to anyone who attended them.

Americo was an ambassador, not just for LACECA, but for the human race – to me he embodied the type of person I want to be, every day. Americo, I salute you, and I hope we meet again.

— **Mike Perez, Retired,**
General Manager
Los Angeles Fire and Police Pensions

Though physically gone, the life Americo lived and the many great things he has accomplished will continue to pave the way for so many. My condolences to his family.

— **Arlene Herrero,**
Vice President of Business Development
The Club

RIP Americo Garza, with deepest sympathy.

— **Trinh Pham, Sr. Accountant**
The Club

JIM THOMPSON — see page 22

ALIVE! FEATURE



JIM THOMPSON

 — continued from page 12

Jim was a reliable and trustworthy team player. He would be the first to offer help, especially for tasks that sounded unappealing to most. It was a pleasure to work alongside him, and he was unquestionably an important cog in the Club engine.

I felt Jim to be one of kindest people on earth. I could tell that he really loved his family ... and of course his cars, books, Dr. Pepper, morning doughnut, mayonnaise, and instrumental music. One of the last conversations we had was about how he never partook in company lunches. It weighs heavy on me to know I didn't get to fulfill my promise of getting a Jim-friendly lunch catered, but let's face it, it was a big ask. The food was either too heavy or what Jim liked to call, "rabbit food."

I will forever miss our friendly banter and thought-provoking conversations. One of my favorite Jim quotes is, "You pay for the sins of your youth." It could be interpreted in many ways, but in this instance, I'm choosing to interpret it as, go do that something that you keep putting off before that something becomes impossible to do.

Thank you to the Club for being the road where Jim and I crossed paths. Thank you, Jim, for the good times and positive impact you had on my life.

My heart goes out to the Thompson family.

— **Petros Khachatryan, Director of IT**
The Club

Jim was great at anticipating and fulfilling staff needs with a sense of urgency and care. He always had the appropriate tool readily available to make any job that much easier. I was searching for a spare ink toner for our postage machine when I came across a box perched high up on a bookshelf near... his desk. Inside lay a new wheel for a dolly that was parked in our fulfillment center. I opted to change the bad wheel and it wasn't a difficult task because Jim had a can of WD-40, an adjustable wrench and a pair of tongue and groove pliers. We now have a dolly functioning once again. Want to know how far in advance Jim obtained the spare wheel? The box's shipping label stated June 2016 – he was that good at anticipating needs.

Jim loved his wife, his family, reading a good... science fiction book, cars, fixing and building anything. "Are we having fun yet?"; "Easy for you to say"; "So much fun"; "Likely story"; "Be nice"; "Should be interesting"; "Life in the big city"; are few of the many hilarious and quirky puns that helped us get through the day. Jim, and his memorable phrases, are missed. Thank you, Jim.

— **Ronald Cortez, Assistant Quality Assurance Analyst**
The Club

I always called Jim "My Best Bud" for Buddy! Every morning I went into the office I always stopped and talked to Jim. We would talk about cars. He gave me the best advice as to repairs and parts, and kept me updated on the new line of cars. He was an expert with antique cars and customizing.

I will truly miss Jim's smiles and laughter. He was one of a kind.

Rest in Peace, Jim. You will never be forgotten.

— **Cheryl Martin, Counselor**
The Club

May you rest in peace, Jim! Jim was willing to assist everyone in need. His presence will be missed by the staffs he interacted with.

— **Trinh Pham, Sr. Accountant**
The Club

Although I did not spend much time working alongside Jim at the Club, the times I did spend were very positive and stood out.

He had a way of making even the most mundane moments funny with his hilarious comments and wit. I could tell he loved his

wife so very much, and watching them eat together during lunchtime was just wholesome. I could tell he worked very hard and took pride in what he did. He was also very helpful: My memories of him are mostly him helping colleagues or asking them about their day!

My condolences to his family and friends. The Club misses Jim.

— **Cesilee Castillo, Customer Service Rep**
The Club

I am still in disbelief, and I cannot imagine how the Thompson family must feel.

It's truly a challenge to pin down who Jim was in a few words. The first thing that comes to mind is hearing him say, "Coming dear!" to quite literally anyone who rang the doorbell at HQ. I've never encountered someone willing to help with anything, whether it be at work or not, quite as much as Jim was. Jim was someone with a vast amount of knowledge and was eager to give it out to anybody he met. On top of that, there was no task Jim couldn't figure out, given his natural skill, expansive knowledge and adventurer's spirit. Jim was the kind of person who truly enjoyed the game of life, that grabbed it by the horns and took it for all its worth.

Jim was someone you could ask near anything and get a good conversation; he truly saw the importance of creating connections with other people. Jim was someone I am extremely grateful I got the chance to cross paths with, and I strive to live a life to the level of fulfillment that he did. I will end this on a phrase I still use regularly that I admittedly plagiarized from Jim that I try to live by: "Ain't it fun?"

— **Noah Hawkins, Customer Service Rep**
The Club

I was lucky enough to have worked with Jim and always looked forward to our snack runs. Jim one day took me to the best places in the city to make sure that staff had great snack options. Though I may have closed my eyes on some of the drive as Jim quickly yet carefully maneuvered the streets of downtown LA, he would share with me fun ways he thought of modifying my car or what car to get next. Jim impacted each one of us. He was generous, thoughtful with a witty sense of humor.

He will be missed dearly, and my thoughts and prayers are with the Thompson family during this difficult time.

— **Arlene Herrero, Vice President of Business Development**
The Club

I will miss Jim's greetings. He truly was the sweetest; every time I walked into the office and saw all the Wonder Woman things he so generously got me, will put a smile on my face! He did so much and his absence will never really be filled.

I can still hear him walking down the hall: "Ain't it grand?"

— **Mariana Guevara, Ticket and Benefit Procurement**
The Club

Jim was a wonderful, kind-hearted man. He was always available to help others in any capacity. He always made sure the candies and snacks everyone liked were stocked at Club headquarters. Jim was a loved man, co-worker, and friend. He will be missed.

— **Noelle Kauffman, Director of Sales**
The Club



Jim and Leigh Thompson.

It was clear that Jim was a caring family man, through and through. Jim was a part of the Club family and will be missed.

— **Tiffany Sy, Counselor**
The Club

Jim was a larger-than-life character who could make anyone laugh. He could walk into a completely silent room and have everyone cracking up from his witty remarks about—well, anything. He was the type of person to always make sure everyone around him felt comfortable, taken care of, and content all the way around. He will be deeply missed and never forgotten by those who knew and loved him.

— **Dylan Noel, CRM Business Analyst**
The Club

Jim was warm and kind. He always greeted me with enthusiasm and a funny remark and asked about my day, my dog, my travels, and my car. I could always count on Jim to offer help in whatever way he could. I looked forward to seeing him in the office. It pains me to know I can no longer have our fun conversations and hugs in the office. He will be missed!

— **Dalila Vielma, Counselor**
The Club

Jim was a kind man with a big heart. He could strike up a conversation with anyone and deliver a great joke. I will miss his stories and his witty life tips. He truly took the time to get to know each of us and learn what we liked.

He adored his wife and family and never passed up an opportunity to show them off. He was the type of man who could make a friend anywhere and anytime, could crack you up with his one-liners, and always found a way to be helpful. We were all very lucky to have made a friend like Jim.

— **Mikayla Dooley-Sprague, Claims Coordinator**
The Club

Jim was a kind and caring person who always was willing to help in any way he could.

One of the many traits I really appreciated was his honesty!

He was a very important part of the Club, and he will be truly missed. Rest in Peace, Jim!

— **Monica Zamudio, Claims Administrator**
The Club